

The 5th Meeting of Asia-Australasian Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology

The Asia-Australasian Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology (AAFITN) was founded in 1994 by a group of Neurosurgeons and Neuroradiologists who had interest in Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology. Our Honorary President Professor Feng Ling organized the Inaugural meeting of the 1st AAFITN in 1994, which was held in Beijing, China. The last two meetings were held in Sendai, Japan, in 2000 and in Seoul, Korea, in 2001.

The objectives of the Federation are:

- 1) to encourage the formation and gathering of groups within different geographic areas under the auspices of relevant national or regional societies of neuroradiology, or their equivalent;*
- 2) develop and support standards for training in interventional and therapeutic neuroradiology;*
- 3) promote and co-ordinate meetings for presentation of scientific work and dissemination of the latest advances related to interventional and therapeutic neuroradiology.*

With the rapid development of new technology in imaging techniques coupled with improvements in microcatheters and embolization materials, the general consensus during the recent executive meeting of the AAFITN in Hong Kong was that there was a clear need to maintain the continuity of the meeting biannually alternating with the WFITN meeting. This will provide more opportunity for participants from Asian-Australasian countries to exchange new ideas and experience in this rapidly expanding field. Special emphasis was also placed on increasing the membership from representative countries and exchange of knowledge through scientific meetings which

not only promote interaction among neurosurgeons, radiologists and researches, but also generate excellent scientific interactions and friendship across countries and disciplines.

This year, the 5th Meeting of the Asian-Australasian Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology was held at Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel, Hong Kong SAR from 9th to 11th November 2002. The 5th AAFITN meeting was indeed a historic event, as for the first time, the meeting was held independently from other meetings. This unique meeting proved to be an outstanding success with 219 registrants, not exclusive to the Asian-Australasian region, but also from Europe and North America. Despite the sunny weekend, almost all participants still remained in the conference room for the lavish information made available. The programme consisted of plenary sessions, scientific presentations, interactive case demonstrations, scientific exhibits and luncheon seminars. A trade exhibit was also arranged on site, demonstrating the hardware and software of imaging equipment as well as catheters and embolization material pertinent to this branch of medicine. This meeting certainly provided more opportunity for participants from Asian-Australasian countries to exchange new ideas and experience in this rapidly expanding field.

We were honored and delighted to have five distinguished international guests, Professor Pierre Lasjaunias (France), Professor Michel Mawad (USA), Professor Neil Martin (USA), Professor Jacques Moret (France) and Professor Karel terBrugge (Canada), who have made a significant impact on the neuro-interventional landscape and neurovascular surgery through their innovative and pioneer-



Executive members and speakers of AAFITN 2002. Front row, from left: A Takahashi, F Ling, S Pongpech, M Mawad, N Martin, JCK Kwok, J Moret, P Lasjaunias, Yoka terBrugge, K terBrugge. Back row, from left: W Taki, DI Kim, A Karapurkar, M Teng, S Suthiponchai, HQ Zhang.

ing works, addressed the participants in the plenary sessions, and shared with us their wisdom and experience in the most challenging field of neuro-endovascular therapy and neurovascular surgery.

The response to the scientific papers was overwhelming. A total of 71 scientific papers were presented, of which 48 were oral presentations and 23 poster presentations. The quality of the scientific papers was uniformly high. Not only did the scientific papers offer stimulating insights into innovative approaches for managing cerebral and spinal vascular diseases, but also signified the advancement in the ongoing research in neurovascular diseases. In an attempt to recognize the excellent work of neuro-interventional therapists, the best scientific presentation award was given to Dr. Yasunari Niimi for his work on "Radicular Arteriovenous Malformation: A cause of Radicular Pain". Best poster presentation was awarded to Dr. Tomoyuki Iwai for his poster:

"Histopathological study of Diffuse Cerebral Embolism as a Complication of Carotid Balloon angioplasty".

We hope that everyone did go away with new ideas and leave fond memories of excellent professional and social interaction. The next biannual AAFITN meeting will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 25th – 27th March 2004 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Suthisak Suthiponchai.

Finally we would like to thank all the speakers for their contribution to the success of this memorable meeting. Last but not least, we would like to thank our sponsors, who, despite the current economic situation, demonstrated their unfailing encouragement, support and enthusiasm in the promotion of interventional neuroradiology education. With their support, the meeting proved to be both financially and scientifically rewarding and we continue to look forward to their support for future meetings.